

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 121

JULY, 1931.

Price 4d.

From Land's End to John o' Groats

Cornwall and Caithness send Greetings to the "L.O."

CORNWALL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

The solution of the problems of organisation in the Labour Movement can only be obtained by the interchange of views and experiences. Unfortunately in this far-flung area of Cornwall our opportunities of comparing notes are few and far between. You will realise this when you know that the nearest full-time agent to me is Bristol, and it takes six hours in the fastest express train to get there.

That's where "The Labour Organiser" comes in. It brings to us the experiments and experiences of our comrades in the centres of Labour activity. Where should we be without the "Organiser"? It gives us the inestimable advantage of grafting on to our own efforts the experiences of others.

In thanking you personally for all that you have done to produce "The Labour Organiser," may I also remind your readers that accounts of the problems that they have solved should be sent in to you, as an example and an inspiration to us.

Yours faithfully,

E. J. ALFORD.

Secy. Cornwall Federation of
Divisional Labour Parties.

2nd July, 1931.

CAITHNESS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

While forwarding my subscription for another year I should like to say how helpful I find "The Labour Organiser," and how much I look forward to receiving and reading it. You will readily understand what value and assistance it is to me in this backward rural constituency, where organising work is purely voluntary, and is done after doing a full day's work for an employer.

I suppose I am the most northerly subscriber known to you. I am only 17 miles from John o' Groats. Efforts are being made to set up a D.L.P. for this constituency, and many of the useful tips given in "The Labour Organiser" are being tried.

Wishing you every success and an ever-increasing circulation.

Yours faithfully,

J. D. MACKAY.

10, Bridge Street,

Wick,

Caithness.

27th June, 1931.

Note: Our readers will be interested to know that the "L.O." also finds its way to valued subscribers in Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand, S. Africa, Egypt, Germany and other countries. We appreciate the interest of these far off friends in Labour's progress in the old country, and send to them our hearty greetings.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

Friday, August 7th—that is the date which should by now be impressed upon the minds of every agent and secretary. It is the last date for claims. At midnight on August 7th will pass for ever the chance of thousands of people left off the register to take part in the most important General Election of our time, should it fall, as it is most likely to do, during the currency of the new register. This fact should be a spur to every Local Party and Committee, and to every officer, to do all he or she can to ensure that each Labour supporter is placed on the list. It is earnestly hoped that the incidence of the August holiday will not be allowed to interrupt what may actually prove to be the first blow for victory at the next election. It really is as important as that, and we make no apology for again referring to this matter.

The new housing estates which are springing up in all parts of the country are providing problems of their own to political organisers. In the first place strong Labour centres are bemoaning the loss to their Movement of supporters who are moving into the outer fringe and the new estates. Generally such people are the cream of the Movement, and in some towns this migration of Labour's best elements is proving a serious problem for the central constituencies. This is notably the case in Birmingham where it is stated that in one constituency they are unable to keep any capable officers very long for sooner or later they leave the old and insalubrious neighbourhoods for the amenities of Birmingham's great housing estates. We suppose that this drainage from the more populous areas is an inevitable trend. There seems to be no practical remedy for the constituencies which are thus being constantly deprived of workers they have trained, and we hope the next redistribution will to some extent remedy matters by extending the boundaries of the constituencies referred to so that they embrace once more their proper proportion of the residential field. In the meantime, unless the plural vote is abolished, some of the Labour forces in constituencies of this sort are likely to suffer.

The housing estates themselves have other problems. Some of the new resi-

dents become house-proud, or more often, garden-proud after entrance into their new home. They lose contact with the Movement, and interest in it, and they have to be "rediscovered" by the workers in the constituency into which they have moved. We have referred to this problem before, but as big a handicap is the general absence of halls for public or committee meetings in these areas. Labour men and women on public bodies should be looking into this matter, for not only is it a political handicap, but the social life and the amenities of the new housing areas are in many places suffering as a consequence of the absence of facilities of the kind named. The brewers seem to take care that the new housing estates shall not suffer from the absence of palatial places in which to drink, but our Councillors often seem to be very lax in providing places for public entertainment and social functions. We are of opinion that it is their duty to look after this matter, and we would go so far as to say that an obligation rests on local authorities to see that the new areas are even better equipped in this respect than older ones. The provision of public halls should not be left to private enterprise and biased sects.

In enlargement of our latter remark we are often surprised that more outcry is not made by our Movement against the persecution of politics and working class politics in particular, by self-righteous persons and parsons in control of meeting places. All over the country our local Movements are made to suffer by such people in two directions, either a meeting place is barred altogether to politics or else a downright extortionate charge is made. There are numberless halls throughout the country, particularly in the villages, and there are also numerous chapel schoolrooms, the money for the building of which has been raised virtually by public subscription. They are closed to political meetings yet to all intents and purposes such places are public properties. By what right or reason do these people seek to prescribe political meetings as something vicious and wrongful and so poisonous as not to be permitted to take place within the sacred precincts of "their" hall? We protest against this attitude to politics,

and to the freedom of British subjects to partake in the government of their country by taking sides and promoting Parties. Our protest is all the more heartfelt when we remember the consistent propaganda in favour of the existing order openly encouraged and even subsidised and allowed to take place in the same halls under various cloaks. Labour men and women should be alive to this game of "no politics." There are even *publicly owned halls* which are not let for political meetings. The impertinence of some of our local bigwigs is unbounded, but so also is that of the average parson to whom we will devote another paragraph.

We know of parsons who do not hesitate to use the church itself for Empire Day celebrations and sermons strongly biased against the worker. The Village Hall for a Labour meeting? Emphatically no! For ourselves we would alter this by using the church itself, which certainly would not be desecrated by Labour speeches! The church after all, in the majority of cases, is more a national property than a church possession. But we contend that the parish hall at any rate in the present association of church and State is a public building which ought to be made accessible to all and sundry, as likewise every day schoolroom. How far are Labour men and women prepared to fight the parsons' pretensions to prohibit the meetings of one section of the people? Even where they do not expressly do this the outrageous charges sometimes made and placed upon the poorest class of the people, i.e., the workers who organise in the Local Labour Party, are enough to make one's blood boil. Only at one period, that is, during the brief days between the issue of a writ and the polling in a Parliamentary election has one any remedy against the thousands of thieving parsons who exploit Labour's poverty on the countryside. Even then the remedy is limited to the use of the elementary schools. There is not an election agent in the country who could not tell stories concerning the greedy sharp practices indulged in by the village clergy to defeat the purpose of the Act which conceded this minor privilege. It is high time the whole matter received greater exposure and stronger protests than have hitherto been devoted to it.

We occasionally come across among our small Parties, in the remote dis-

tricts, cases where support has been lent to "independent" candidates. In some cases it is stated that — is "really a Labour man, but in order to get elected he has to stand as an independent." Well, if this is the case we would prefer defeat. The smaller Parties and the weaker neighbourhoods into which Labour is now extending its work should not forget the lessons that have been learnt in other places, and the means by which Labour has attained its present position. In some towns such as Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and the host of smaller industrial towns, Municipal victories could have been gained in the early days if men had been prepared to barter their loyalty to the Party for the sake of election. Men have not done so. They have fought and fought again till by Labour's own strength victory has come along. It will be the same in the smaller places, but impatience or the ambition of this or that individual to procure a seat at any cost so far from helping to build the Party will seriously retard its progress. We know the temptation in weak areas to hide one's colours, but 'the cause will be victorious there in time as elsewhere. A word of warning too: out of our experience we have never known one instance of a Labour man elected as an independent afterwards retracing his steps and coming back to initiate or lead an Independent Party. All understanding, compacts with, or concessions to, the enemy are stupid gifts from our own strength towards the buttresses of enemy institutions which we are out to destroy. It is humiliating that Labour, so powerful to-day in so many places; should barter its birthright at the outposts where independence is of more importance than at any other point.

We learn that the examinations under the Labour Party Scheme of Study and Examination will now probably take place in September.

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AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK. The "Conduct of Elections."

The publication by the Labour Party this month of a handbook to Parliamentary and Local Government Elections at a very reasonable price is a boon to thousands of Labour workers who are keenly interested in one aspect or another of the subjects named. The "Conduct of Elections" is termed "a practical guide to the organisation and management of Parliamentary and Local Government elections." It is priced at five shillings, post free. The book has been specially prepared by the National Agent's department for practical use, and it covers the subjects mentioned in an admirably practical manner.

The book does not purport to be a legal text book, but to the agent it is a ready and handy guide on all matters covering every kind of election regarding which reference is ordinarily required. To the amateur election agent and the man who runs a Local Government Election as an incident in his daily work, this handbook is indeed a godsend, saving him from many pitfalls and putting him in the way of conducting his election on sound and legal lines.

The "Conduct of Elections," however, is by no means limited to simple exposition of the regulations and rules governing elections. There are abundant hints as to what to do in certain eventualities, and there are chapters on literature, printing, advertising, canvassing and other matters in which the hints are alone well worth the price of the book. Specimens of election literature are given, and the reader is taken through the whole process of an election from start to finish, receiving guidance at every stage.

This book should have a great sale. It is far and away the most practical election handbook ever published by any source, and it is a marvel of cheapness. The only comparable book of its kind costs many times the price of this one. If those who stand in need of such a book as this respond as they should do to the offer which has been placed before them a sale of several thousand copies should take place. The book certainly should be in the hands of every local secretary, and no less in the hands of every full or part time Labour agent to whom it may often save a troublesome reference to heavier legal works at critical moments.

We suggest to our readers that in many Parties there are a number of

persons who conduct local elections from time to time apart from those who take on the bigger task of the Parliamentary Elections. Each person should possess the book, and some arrangement may be come to by the Local Party by which the copies could be ordered and charged to local funds or by which those who buy the book could have an extended time for payment if necessary.

Though no author's name is given on the title page, and the book is accredited to the National Agent's Department, it is of course no secret that Mr. Harold Croft, the Registrar of the Party Scheme for Study and Examination has given much time and thought to the preparation of this book, and to him is mainly due its production, practicability and reliability.

SUPPLY OF R.P. CIRCULARS TO PARTY AGENTS.

In our issue for May we referred to the inconveniences which Party agents and secretaries experience through the absence of any means of promptly notifying them or supplying them with copies of circulars sent to Registration Officers dealing with the administration of the Representation of the People Acts. The latter circulars sometimes cover important Orders in Council, and while the Head Office of the Labour Party has endeavoured to keep constituency officers abreast of the times regarding important changes, it has, of course, been impossible to reproduce and circulate all the matter referred to.

It was intimated in our May issue that a request had been made by the Labour Party to the Home Office that registration officers should be supplied with sufficient copies of the documents named to enable recognised political agents to be supplied with gratis copies in the same way as is done with the electors lists.

We understand that a reply has now been received to the effect that the Home Office has been in consultation with the Treasury on the matter. It has been agreed that the Home Office shall supply the central offices of the political Parties direct with sufficient copies of the circulars and orders affecting registration and election procedure to enable local agents to be supplied.

Our readers will be gratified that this change has been brought about, and it is interesting to record that the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents were the

original movers in the matter. - The National Agent in turn is to be thanked for the effective results of his representations.

WOOLWICH AND GREENWICH MEMBERSHIPS.

The Annual Report of the Woolwich Labour Party presented to the annual meeting last month makes, as usual, most encouraging reading. This year the total income from individual membership subscriptions reaches £711 7s. 3d., being the second highest total in the Party's history. The previous year's total was £698 os. 11d. After deducting all lapses, which, by the way, are mostly due to removals, the membership total stood at 3,691.

Greenwich, as a single-membered constituency, reports figures equally striking. Here the membership at the end of the year stood at 2,745 after deduction of all lapses and removals. The amount realised in members' subscriptions for the year was £339. The following table indicates the progress in the matter over the last three years:

1928	£201
1929	£260
1930	£339

Congratulations to our friends in both constituencies. Their example nobly supplements our own exhortations to others.

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AN IDEA FOR RURAL ORGANISATION.

From the "Labour Organiser" for July, 1921.

From our issue of ten years ago we cull the following scheme for working rural areas by means of a special service force recruited from the urban centres for this work. Our example comes from King's Lynn, but we should be very glad to know whether any of our readers have put into operation any scheme on the same lines. There is merit in it and properly and enthusiastically worked good results should accrue.

SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

OUTLINE OF OPERATIONS.

- (1) Assemble at Cozen's Hotel, King's Lynn. Travel in group to scene of operations. Transport: cycles.
- (2) Arrived at destination, leader reads procedure to group:—

PROCEDURE.—Attack all village or district by means of house-to-house canvass. Object: Securing of individual members (men and women). Work in pairs—one man and one woman where possible. When member is secured, take subscription, and take down—

Full name,

Full address,

What union or occupation,

Amount of subscription paid.

Inform new members that a full meeting of members will be called at early date by the agent, and that agent will send on notice and official membership card at same time. Leave leaflets (if any) at each house, and announce evening meeting — this whether members secured or not. INVITE ALL TO THE MEETING AT NIGHT.

Before starting away from group meeting—that is, before dispersing for the attack — definite time and place should be fixed for group to reassemble about tea time.

- (3) All lists of members and moneys should be handed in at tea time to leader, who will transmit same to agent on return to King's Lynn.
- (4) MEETING AT NIGHT.—Outstanding characteristic of meeting should be briskness and vigour from the very opening. Speakers should not be afraid of "letting themselves go."
- (5) Literature sales should be pushed at the close of meeting—not during it.
- (6) Appeal for members should be made at close of meeting.

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COMRADES ALL

CARICATURES AND CAMEOS OF PERSONS WE ALL KNOW.

THE MAN WHO TOOK THE FORK

Jimmie Groats is one of the best workers in the Grubbol and District Local Party—that is, when he doesn't "take the fork"! A lion in elections, a pillar of power in between, and an example, when he likes, to all and sundry, Jimmie Groats is just about the hardest worker in the Party—provided he hasn't "got the fork."

But the worst of Jimmie, and there are others like him, is that he *does* take the fork. A careless word from someone, opposition where he doesn't expect it, an imagined slight which nobody intended, and Jimmie "goes off the deep end."

When Jimmie takes the fork his work stops. Never mind about an election or anything else. Jimmie has "finished." And he "finished" four times in the last Parliamentary election, three times in the Municipal election, and no end of times before, between and after.

Jimmie is just an awful example, touchy as gunpowder and almost as explosive. He is a problem to the Party. Nobody works like Jimmie; everybody likes him; they envy his activity, they praise his prowess; they sing his virtues. But just then comes the explosion, and our Achilles retires to his tent. But the tent doesn't hold him very long. We think he gets the fork there too. And back he comes. But Jimmie, though capable of better things, does a lot of damage. What shall we do with Jimmie?

OUR ADVICE TO JIMMIE AND OTHERS LIKE HIM.—

For the sake of the Movement, Comrade, control that nasty temper! Life is short. There is none of it to waste. What have you done in those hours and days when you have sulked and the spleen within you has run purple and red with rage? Not alone the wasted time counts against you; you have destroyed from time to time much of the work on which you have spent happy, earnest hours. Don't be so thin-skinned, chicken-hearted and baby-tempered. Steel yourself to stand the worst knocks your enemies or your friends can give you. You then won't take offence because you cannot always get your own

way. There are those like you, who because work in our Cause is "voluntary" think they may "play up" just whenever they don't get their own way. But there is a code of honour, Jimmie, in the great march of the workers which forbids this thing. You must obey that code.

THE RESIGNER.

We need no name here. Who doesn't know the man—a relative of Jimmie Groats—who is always threatening to resign, but who never does it? Fresh in our mind is a man who was agent in several constituencies, and whose favourite device for bludgeoning his Party into submission was a threat to resign. Once his Party took him at his word; he looked silly and left. Twice, nay, three times, that happened, and three Parties took him at his word. Then he learnt his lesson.

There is another man we have in mind. A young man; an able young man. But he has a habit of constantly threatening to resign whenever difficulties or divisions arise. So far he has always gracefully acceded to the pressure to remain. And he does remain. He is in the same office that he occupied six years ago. Nothing fresh has come his way. He will occupy this same office ten years hence. He does his work well. There is no one else to do it so well, but to-morrow he will resign and a month hence he will do it again. And again and again. A minor office, and a long series of minor resignations: never a major one. What shall we do with a chronic resigner?

ADVICE TO THE RESIGNER.—

Get hold of yourself, man! There was never a niche in history that someone else could not fill. No man is indispensable—not even you. Some day your resignation will be accepted, and you will regret it. Read the advice we have given Jimmie Groats. For reading we prescribe the "Stickit Minister." The man who sticks wins through, and he'll get his own opinions accepted far easier and more often than the man who is always "chucking in." The Cause is injured by your peevishness. Conquer that habit.

COMRADE CRABAPPLE, THE CANDID AND CONSTANT CRITIC.

Of course you know him. A sinister, watchful attendant at all meetings. Comrade Crabapple never takes on any job himself, but he is a mighty critic of those who do. Mr. Secretary hasn't done this or that, or having done it he's done it wrong. This ought to have been done; or that ought not to have been done. Comrade Crabapple knows all the sins of omission, and all the sins of commission—and a whole host of sins that fall under neither category. There's always a sin of some sort to be laid at the door of someone who has *dared to do*. With Comrade Crabapple fault finding is a fine art. He grouches and grumbles while others work. Diacritic and dyspeptic, all other comrades are coloured—black. Throw in the Labour Government of course and the Party Executive, both black, and you have got his complex. Dear Old Crabapple! He attends every meeting; his sourness fills the air. What can we do with Comrade Crabapple?

ADVICE TO COMRADE CRABAPPLE.—Even crabapples have a purpose in life. They make good cider. They are squashed first and one wants to squash Comrade Crabapple. Instead, we appeal to him for silence. Comrade Crabapple, if you have nothing but criticism to offer, please occasionally keep it to yourself! Better still, forsake that corner of yours and take a job yourself! Get busy in the great army of Labour. Do something and keep doing it. By this means you will cure yourself of what, after all, is just a disease. The criticism complex can be cured—but only by putting yourself in the place of those you criticise. Get to work, lad! Work!

THE UNPOLISHED DOUG DIAMOND.

We met Doug Diamond first in the time before the Peace. He was a working collier, rough-spoken, but ready-tongued in a blunt and truculent way. Such education as Doug had had was not apparent. Both his grammar and his manners left almost all that was to be desired. But he was a fiercely earnest member of the Party; ready for any task and seemingly without shame when a job he undertook, such as moving a resolution in a public meeting, betrayed to the world his weaknesses. Despite these

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things he just went on—fighting. He always fought. An unpolished Diamond!

We remember Doug's first fight in the U.D.C. elections. A terrific defeat. But Doug went on. The years have gone on too. Doug Diamond has changed; and yet he hasn't. In the intervening years he has fought and won, handsomely. In the U.D.C. he has proved a power. There is now a Labour majority and he is chairman. He has been chairman of important committees. He has the affairs of his District at his finger ends. He stands high in his Union. The stars mark him out as the inevitable Labour member for the constituency in which he has worked and in which he now carries on as agent. Certainly he has altered, but he is the same old Doug Diamond—willing, working, fighting, somewhat better in his speech, but direct, as of yore. Heedless of opposition, he fights straight for the people.

Doug Diamond is still unpolished. Though his clothes are better his worker's muscles and plebeian carriage show through them. Which Doug would not, for a world, disguise. Doug Diamond is well named.

But we knew another Diamond. A collier too. But honour and success have

been too much for his little soul. The paths of Doug and this other Diamond have been strangely alike. But they will never reach the same goal together or render the same service to our Cause. Diamond number two has tried a little polish. Aitches, he knows, are sounded everywhere in the best society, except perhaps the Dominions Office. And Diamond sounds them everywhere! or everywhere where he shouldn't. He also cultivates a "haw" and a "haw-haw." There's a trace of Oxford, one means to say. He can now give an Oxford air to a collier cuss. He talks golf, married a doll of a girl, and apes the "middle class." In a pinch one would not rely on Diamond number two. And nobody does. Curious isn't it that it is a common instinct to distrust the man who would smother his own birth?

ADVICE TO UNCUT DIAMONDS.

—Be yourselves! Acquire knowledge, certainly; culture and training, the manners too, of a gentleman, if you wish. But apeing another class, and affectation, are poor substitutes for the lustre that simple honesty reflects when a man is true to his class though he has risen above it. All the world may love a lover; but it loves the unpolished diamond even better.

(More cameos next month.)

WHERE TO STAY AT SCARBOROUGH.

Readers of the "Labour Organiser" who will be staying in Scarborough for the Annual Conference of the Labour Party are advised to book up at the Ideal Guest House, whose advertisement appears in another column. A number of Labour agents will be booking up at this establishment, and there is ample accommodation for other readers of the "Labour Organiser" whose fellowship during the week will be welcomed.

The Ideal Guest House is a really well-equipped place at a moderate price, and right handy to the Conference Hall. It is possible that a social function will take place at the Guest House on Saturday, 3rd October. If so particulars will be announced in the "Labour Organiser" in due course. Early bookings are advisable and correspondents should be specific as to the date on which they will arrive. Bookings from the Saturday for the term of the Conference are of course preferred.

EQUIPMENT FOR LABOUR OFFICES.

Some Modern Aids to Office Efficiency.

The modern and cleaner office pastes have almost ousted from up-to-date establishments the oozy and watery compounds formerly in use. It is as well, however, not to be tempted by cheapness even in this matter, for there are inferior pastes upon the market sold in containers equally unsatisfactory. The advantages of Stephens' adhesive paste are that it is just of the right consistency to spread, and it remains pleasant to use till the bottom of the container is reached. It is so bland that it may be applied for mounting the most delicate work. It is sold in a black composition jar, which unlike the cheaper containers, cannot be squeezed or dented out of shape, while the lid is always easy to put on or take off. The price is 1/6 per jar of any stationers. Where a stronger adhesive is required Stephens' vegetable glue, which has no smell, is to be recommended. This is very powerful and it is sold in tubes of twopence, sixpence and ninepence.

Among Stephens' other productions are the well-known blue-black inks, special fountain pen inks, coloured inks (violet, blue, green, orange, crimson, magenta and brown) Indian inks, drawing and ticketing inks, outdoor ink, rubber and metal stamp inks, etc., etc. A later production specially useful to secretaries who desire to secure originality or contrast in carboned circulars is the series of tinted carbon papers manufactured by this firm. Carbon paper in both light and medium weights is now to be obtained in blue, green and red in addition to the usual black or purple. Stephens' typewriter ribbons in similar tints also have the recommendation that they come from a house famous for quality.

For auditing and book-keeping work do not use the ordinary red and blue pencils stocked by small shopkeepers. The famous firm of L. & C. Hardtmuth's supply through all stationers a series of indelible coloured ink pencils for the special purpose of correcting and checking. Eight distinct colours are made, i.e., green, yellow, red, blue, carmine, black, brown and mauve. They are sold in boxes containing one of each of the eight colours at two shillings, or singly at threepence each. These special pencils are largely used

by accountants and similar professional workers.

Secretaries and agents who produce their occasional hand-written poster or show card with the aid of the old-fashioned brush are behind the times. Coit's ball-bearing lettering pens are specially made for this work, and give far better results. They are largely used by estate agents, draughtsmen, architects, artists and storekeepers. The pens are of sheet brass and equipped with a corrugated retainer which holds enough ink for a complete line or letter. They write a clear-cut sharp letter with no smudging or raggedness, and offer a firm and steady rest for the hand. A standard set consists of four brushes sized one-eighth of an inch, quarter inch, three-eighths of an inch, and half an inch costs six and eightpence. Single pens from one-sixteenth of an inch to one inch cost from one and ninepence to two shillings and threepence. The makers are Bramco (1920) Ltd., St. Nicholas Street, Coventry.

Every agent and secretary finds the necessity of using tabs for his folders, index cards, etc. It is now possible to buy index tabs by the foot, so that they may be cut to one's own convenience. The price is two and sixpence per foot, and there is a choice of colours and also a choice of sizes. The makers of these *Kuturown* are the famous Twinlock firm, makers of loose leaf books. The productions of this firm are used in the office of the "Labour Organiser." We should add that these tabs are made of transparent fibreloid; the index names are typed or written for insertion, and the gummed linen by which they are attached to the sheet or card is perfectly satisfactory.

Some secretaries find a use for enamelled metal signals. We ourselves find such devices extremely useful, and local secretaries would find that with a little thought the signalling of their index cards could be made the medium for announcing at sight all sorts of information concerning their organisation. Thus in an alphabetic list of members one set of colours may distinguish members of the General Committee, another members of the Executive, another the women's section, and similarly the ward organisations and so forth. Smith's enamelled metal signals are sold by most stationers, and in several sizes and colours. Those who require something stronger than the "Kuturown" tabs above mentioned

will find that Smith's leather tabs supply the need. These, as is the case with some of the larger metal guides, have celluloid windows into which the title is inserted.

The famous typewriter firm of Barlock have recently placed on the market an extremely low-priced portable typewriter. This is known as the "Barlet" and is sold complete with travelling case for eight guineas. The Barlet is an extremely attractive little machine, and there is a choice of several colours. It is supplied on monthly terms to approved customers. Certainly no one having a need for a typewriter should be without one when it is possible to procure a "Barlet" for ten shillings cash with order and ten shillings per month — an addition of only twelve shillings for eighteen months credit.

A useful adjunct to the telephone is Bates' Rotary Telephone Index, a device which will hold no less than seven hundred and twenty names and numbers. One spin of the knob will whirl the roll strip on which the numbers are contained from A to Z, and give any number required in two seconds. The up-to-date secretary who can afford twelve shillings and sixpence will find that this gadget has a number of other uses unconnected with the telephone, though in its primary use it is certainly a blessing in a busy office. The distributors are Messrs. Tollit and Harvey, Ltd., 44, Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

A convenience not likely to be in general use in Labour offices but which would certainly be an advantage, is the Nulli Secundus desk sealer, priced at three shillings and sixpence. This machine contains a coil of gummed tape, which runs off the machine ready damped for use. In ordinary commercial circles the packing of small parcels has greatly improved of late years, largely due to better labelling and sealing. Where local Labour newspapers and similar matters are being constantly sent out a sealing machine is worth consideration. There are, of course, higher-priced machines, and lists may be obtained from Messrs. G. T. Cheshire and Sons, whose advertisement appears on our last page.

Steel office furniture is the vogue. Where Labour offices are being refurnished or freshly opened consideration should be given to the variety and excellence of manufacture which has

been reached in this direction. It is not so many years since the office safe and the office heating apparatus were about the only articles of steel on the premises except perhaps the pens. To-day the modern office is equipped from top to bottom with steel. Steel chairs, steel tables, steel desks, cupboards, filing cabinets, shelves, racks and letter trays, stationery cabinets, letter sorters, etc. Even waste-paper tubs are done in steel. Manufacturers have succeeded in giving a beautiful lustre to this sort of furniture, all of which is in keeping with modern tastes for simplicity and dignity in furnishing. Messrs. Cheshire and Sons, whose advertisement appears on our back cover are stockists and specialists in this type of goods, and will gladly send price lists to readers enquiring for same.

It is probable that some of our readers are unaware of one of the latest Gestetner achievements. They should enquire of this famous firm concerning the Gestescript stencils. The Gestescript is an aid to the reproduction of illustrations, drawings, handwriting and work on the typewriter. We have seen some specimens of striking hand-bill work done in this way on various tints of papers, and in various coloured inks. Either a brush or felt pen is used, together with Gestescript writing and drawing ink. The image is made direct on to the stencil and the ink etches away the composition. The stencil is then put on the machine and the required number of copies run off. To obtain tinted effects special tinted stencils are used. A demonstration with the Gestetner representative will open the eyes of our readers to a development in duplicating work likely to be of special service to them.

We have been asked for particulars of a cheap and satisfactory rotary duplicator. There is a duplicator on the market which though low in price is a compact practical and efficient machine. This is the "Arlac" a machine which is both clean in use and simple in construction. An unique feature of this duplicator is the printing drum which is interchangeable so as to provide for multi-colour work. The "Arlac-Four"—a machine which carries sufficient ink for six hundred prints, costs only nine pounds, and takes paper up to foolscap size. It is supplied with full equipment. The "Arlac-Forty," a machine with automatic paper feeding, counting and

special inking, costs fifteen guineas, while what one assumes to be the super Arlac, i.e., the Arlac-Fifty, is only twenty pounds and possesses several special features. All the Arlac machines are speedy and dependable, and at the price they should prove a boon in Labour offices. Enquiries should be sent to the sole manufacturer, Carl F. Brauer, Arlac Supply Service, 29, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.

A recent development in the typewriter world which has special attractions for the political agent or secretary is the Varityper—a modern writing machine which disposes of the limitations of ordinary typewriters. The Varityper is a standard typewriter with changeable type. More than twenty styles and sizes are available in the English language, though fifty different languages are also catered for. Every agent must have felt at some time or another in the course of his extensive circularising that this or that particular circular needed special emphasis, and he frequently desires to attract in some way the special attention of the recipient either to a particular circular as a whole or to certain paragraphs in it. The "dead" appearance of an ordinary carbon-copied or duplicated circular, or even the ordinary letter is well known, and the devices usually adopted to counteract this effect have hitherto been limited to the use of capitals, tinted papers or coloured inks. Neither expedient can be said to be entirely satisfactory. The Varityper, by the simple device of changing the face of the type accomplishes just what one wants. Thus one may get script, italic or over-size type—there is a wealth of available changes of type faces. In addition it is possible on the Varityper to alter the spacing between the letters horizontally as well as vertically. A further unique advantage is an automatically controlled impression by reason of which the impression of the writing is always uniform, and as a consequence the machine cuts a perfect stencil in, of course, any type one chooses. Matter one desires to condense in a report may now be typed in small type; other matter for which emphasis is required can be thrown up in larger type. In short, this machine is a boon to agents, and also to many others such as students, scientists and professional men. We should like our readers to enquire for further particulars from Varityper Ltd., 75, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.



QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

Using Supplies from Last Election.

Question. I am contesting an election to fill a casual vacancy on our Urban District Council and have some window cards left from a previous occasion. They bear the words "Vote for ——" only and printer's imprint. Can I use these now?

Also can I circulate a "duplicated" election address?

The successful candidate in this case only holds office for six months, so funds being painfully low we wish to economise if possible.

Answer. We do not see any objection to our correspondent using for the purposes of his campaign the left-over literature from the last campaign. It is to be presumed that the window cards bear the printer's imprint, and that they are legal in other respects. On this point it has to be admitted that there is some doubt whether a card merely bearing the name of a candidate and his photograph or the words "Vote for ——" is a mark of distinction. Certainly cards of this character are frequently used with the object of getting electors to label themselves in their windows. In our opinion a mere photograph with the candidate's name would fall under a ban. We, however, incline to the opinion that when the words "Vote for ——" or such matter is added the cards more legitimately fall under the classification of "placards" and as such are perfectly legal.

We take this opportunity of warning our readers of the legal complication in this matter, for it is not often appreciated. We should unhesitatingly characterise a punch-holed and corded card containing a candidate's photograph and no very clear message as a mark of distinction, and it is as well to avoid this pitfall.

However, this is something of a digression. A more important point concerns the difference between the use

of left-over or printed matter in District Council and other elections. In a Municipal, County Council or Parliamentary Election the question arises whether the expense of any left-over literature used at the election should be "returned." The C.I.P.A. 1883, requires in the case of a Parliamentary election a statement of all the payments made, and a statement of all money securities and equivalent of money received, and the Municipal Elections, Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1884, requires in the case of an election coming under that Act a return of all expenses incurred. The return of monies received is dispensed with in the latter case.

The question arises as to how goods used in an election which are not paid for at the time of the election should be treated so far as the return is concerned. A candidate or election agent who uses material previously paid for at another election, obviously does not incur another expense, or make another payment for the same goods when they come into use, but an abuse of this procedure might make it possible for a candidate to overbuy at one election for the purpose of over-spending at the next one. This would not do at all.

In all cases of doubt concerning an election return it is best to be perfectly frank about the matter and err on the side of safety. The election agent at a Parliamentary election might in such case purchase from the candidate, and so the item would come into account. On the other hand he may treat the cost of goods supplied to him without charge as the equivalent of money, and return it as received, in which case in order not to throw his balance out he should enter the cost of the items under the appropriate heading on the expenses side, not as a payment to some person, but by writing some such item as the following, "add to above items the estimated cost of three thousand

placards received from the candidate as per particulars on income side of return."

In a Municipal election the matter is simpler, for one would simply say "to cost of three thousand placards used by me in this election, being balance of literature left over from last election and paid for by me at that time (receipt not available for attaching to this return)".

Regarding our correspondent's second question a duplicated Election Address is certainly permissible, but it is necessary to add an imprint at the foot in the same way as would be done with a printed address.

The Public's Rights at Council Meetings.

Question. Could you inform or advise me as to whether there exists any law or statute governing the issue to the public of copies of the agenda for local Town Council meetings. It has been the custom of one of our districts, — Urban District Council, to issue to the public who attend to watch proceedings of Council, a copy of the agenda so that they may follow the business, always it would appear, on the understanding that these copies should be returned by the public at the termination of Council meetings. This regulation it would appear has never been strictly adhered to until recently, when one individual (a late Councillor) flatly refused to give up his copy to the authorised official deputed to collect same. This has led to the Council making a decision not to issue in the future any copies of such Minutes for the convenience of the public who desire to attend open Council.

A decision such as this of course makes it well-nigh useless for the public to attend Council meetings at all, because it would be impossible to follow the procedure adopted. Some of the members of our Party have made it a practice to attend Council meetings reporting back each time to their monthly Party meetings. It is on their behalf that I write to ascertain whether rate-payers have any direct claim to be supplied with copies of such order of business or whether it is merely a courtesy privilege of the particular Council.

Answer. There is no statute or regulation which gives to the public any right to copies of the Council agenda. The practice in this respect varies in different parts of the country, but it seems an extraordinary procedure to

issue copies of the agenda and to collect them afterwards. The only advice we can tender our correspondent is to continue to make courteous representations to the Council with a view to securing satisfactory arrangements. In the meantime we should be glad to hear from our readers as to the practice in their part of the country.

The Divisional Party's Car.

Question. Our Party are thinking of buying a car for the use of our part-time agent in this wide and scattered constituency. We do not know quite what financial arrangement to make, because it is supposed that the car will be sometimes used by the candidate as well as for conveying speakers to meetings and similar uses. We should be glad if you could give some hints on this matter in the "Labour Organiser." There are a lot of questions involved such as who should clean the car, where it should be garaged, who should pay for replacements and repairs, and all this sort of thing. Your help will be much appreciated.

Answer. Our correspondent's query is a particularly difficult one to reply to. Extraordinary as it may seem it is easier to buy the car than to make satisfactory arrangements concerning all the above matters, that is, unless everybody concerned approaches the matter in a thoroughly unselfish spirit.

The only ideal arrangement where a car belongs to a Party and is to be used in the manner described is the employment of a chauffeur. We only know of one Party in the country who by the aid of their candidate is in the happy position of being able to do this, and even though the arrangement is an ideal one it obviously is not without its own special problems.

Where a car is at the command of several persons confusion and occasional clashes are bound to occur. It is far better to place the car in charge of one person to whom all applications for use should be made; whether this person is to be the agent, secretary, or somebody else, is purely a matter of local expediency.

If one could eliminate entirely the possibility of joy-riding the remaining questions are much simplified. It is clearly the Party's duty to pay for repairs, supplies, garaging and so forth, but repairs, cleaning and the everyday attentions can often be given by voluntary labour, and even free garaging obtained. These duties should certainly

not be put upon any particular officer, merely because he is to be the principal user of the car.

In some cases a car is bought and placed at the entire disposal of the agent. This, in most cases, works out satisfactorily, because unless there is a gross abuse by too much personal use of the car a certain amount of such usage is compensated for by the agent keeping the car in proper condition. The actual running costs and the cost of repairs, though still a Party charge become in most cases a matter for give and take as between the agent and the Party. A fair-minded man would not expect the Party to pay for every trifling matter, and it would not be proper that they should do so. On the other hand we can imagine the case of a Party buying a second-hand crock and expecting their poor agent or secretary to bear the consequences.

Altogether then, the matter is one for fair-minded adjustment between the officers concerned. We are unable to help other than by the above remarks.

Fixing an Agent's Hours of Duty.

Question. Can you please give me some advice as to an agent's hours of duty? We have a proposal by some of our members for our agent to have fixed hours of duty, and we want to know what is customary in other parts of the country. How many hours a week should an agent work? How many hours a day; should there be an afternoon off, and at what time should an agent finish?

Answer. Our friend's question shows that whatever may be said about their agent the employers themselves are obviously amateurs at the job. We suspect that the agent is something of an amateur too, or this question would never have been asked. We are somewhat surprised that there is no mention of a spread-over, overtime or double pay for Sunday duties! The two latter items would at any rate secure our personal support, though with vain hopes of success.

The duties of a Labour agent have never yet been defined—they cannot be, though it is quite clear that certain functions in almost every constituency fall within the agent's sphere of activity. The work on which the agent is employed, however, varies from constituency to constituency. In some constituencies he may be largely an office man in the day time with meetings to attend at night, all his duties lying quite close to his door. In other

constituencies an agent is mostly away from his office, and even away from his centre for two or three days at a time. The stage of development which the constituency has reached also largely determines the proportion of indoor and outdoor duties, i.e., away from office or home duties which he performs.

An agent's prime function is to secure the financial, numerical and political prosperity of his Party, and to maintain efficient working of the Party's organisation in all its parts. In pursuance of these functions his actual activities vary from month to month, and even from day to day. Some of an agent's duties are carried with him in the street, into his social life, not to mention his home. How is it possible in this state of affairs to set a limit on his time, and to say that at such and such o'clock the agent shall knock off work? In most respects he is like a parson. The parson is a parson all his time, and he is not allowed to forget his vocation wherever he goes.

At the same time we profoundly believe that an agent is well-advised who makes it a rule to set aside certain hours per day or per week, at which he is available in a given place for meeting those who wish to see him. Where he has an office certain office hours are desirable, and where his home is his office he should make himself available for certain specific hours. An agent in a scattered constituency is well advised to have specified days for at least the important parts of the constituency. These can coincide with the local monthly meetings. But it is a bad agent who is never to be found anywhere, and whose unreliability in this respect leads to demands for a settlement of his hours.

Sunday duties for agents cannot be avoided in some constituencies. We believe, however, that they could be lessened in most, though on the other hand we do not like the idea of an agent taking up a purely sabbatarian view of this matter. Such a view is somewhat out of harmony with the Party's present life and activities. We should add that we are sometimes asked about an agent's holidays. As model employers the Labour Movement should be prepared to give its employees a reasonable holiday with pay. There are, however, few Parties to-day where the agent does not get his fortnight's annual leave.

MEMBERSHIP: Its Use to the Party

By HINLEY ATKINSON.

ONE of the miracles of the Labour Movement is the rapid and tremendous growth of its individual membership. Other political parties have never had a membership at all comparable in size with that of the Labour Party, notwithstanding that their memberships are nominal and more often than not are an obligation from the Party to the member rather than upon the member.

They Enrol to Serve.

Labour Party membership is definitely an obligation of individuals to the Party. It is an enrolment for service in a great cause.

Labour Party organisation presents a problem which can only be met by the adherence of a large membership accepting the obligation to assist the Party. One aspect of this problem is that many Labour Parties are faced with the responsibility of contesting Local Government and Parliamentary seats with little or no financial support from the candidates they adopt.

Under modern conditions elections are expensive. Labour's opponents spend money lavishly in their fight to retain social and economic privilege. For Labour to fight under these conditions without adequate resources with which to proclaim its policy and organise its supporters is to invite defeat.

It is, then, upon the resources of its membership, as opposed to rich patrons who finance other Parties, that Labour depends. The economic resources of each individual member are so small that it is only the collective contributions of a large membership which are adequate to our task. While a rich candidate and a few wealthy supporters can quite easily provide, say, £600 per annum for our opponents' organisation, it requires a penny a week from three thousand members to provide the same sum for the Labour Party.

Financial Needs.

As a modern political party requires at least this sum in order to organise a constituency adequately, it follows that, even when allowance has been made for money-raising social efforts, Labour Parties must base their activities on individual membership reckoned by the thousand rather than by the hundred.

The foregoing financial considerations, it is true, do not press so forcibly in the case of constituencies which have candidates with a personal or Trade

Union backing. But even in these constituencies the financial support is generally inadequate, and, in every case, a money income in itself does not create an organisation which in quality and size is adequate to our task.

Examining our problem from another angle, it soon becomes clear that more important even than the financial resources which individual membership provides, is the material it makes available for propaganda and organisation. The number of persons consciously associated with a Party determines the moral support behind the Party; provides the material for an educated minority of the electorate, which is the greatest asset of any Party; and provides the only personnel from which the machinery of organisation can be constructed.

Miniature Electorate.

Without a machine little effective political work can be done either between elections or during the actual contest. A large membership not only provides the personnel for a machine, but it is also the miniature electorate on which the machine operates and trains itself for the more strenuous work of elections.

The Party which has machinery for collecting membership contributions, distributing notices, holding Ward meetings and social functions, has the machinery which, with little adaptation, successfully undertakes the work of literature distribution, canvassing, and the many other classes of work which an election campaign entails. Where this machinery does not exist between elections, it can be provided only in a much less efficient form by considerable financial expenditure. It is safe to say that this machinery is generally more developed and more efficient in proportion to the size of the live individual membership of the Party.

A Machine Essential.

The object of a Labour Party is to educate the electors to a belief in the principles for which the Party stands, and to construct the machinery necessary to ensure that its supporters register their votes. This is a task which cannot be accomplished except by the construction of a political machine, powerful in size, substantially financed, and efficiently controlled. If we desire the end we must will the means.

A great development of individual membership is the only means to this end in a large number of constituencies; in many others it is a necessary supplement to existing resources. It is a development possible in every constituency for every Labour voter is a potential member. That it is the only means available does not detract from its value, for it provides us with an instrument better suited to our purpose than any we have yet tried.

(Reprinted by permission from "The London News.")

THE AUGUST ISSUE

of the

"LABOUR ORGANISER"

will contain some interesting reprints from ten-year-old numbers of this journal.

NEWS FROM NUNEATON: A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The following seems to us to be a good expression of the message which many Parties are anxious to convey to their supporters. It is contained in a little four-fold leaflet issued by the Nuneaton Labour Party, and addressed to all Labour supporters. It is entitled

"A message from the Labour Party." The leaflets are distributed and collected, and the signatories are called upon regularly for their contributions. A penny per week scheme has been a great success in the Nuneaton Division for a number of years.

NUNEATON DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY. HAREFIELD ROAD, NUNEATON.

President:

Frank Smith, M.P.

Secretary and Agent:

Walter Lewis.

DEAR FRIEND,

Do you believe in the Labour Party? If you do, **HOW MUCH DO YOU BELIEVE?** Will you believe to the extent of 1d. per week?

The Labour Party has been built up by the self-sacrificing contributions of the working-class. Our striking success in 1929 was largely due to the pence, the pounds, the organisation, and the POWER obtained from the operations of our Penny Fund.

We want, not only your pence, but the **STRENGTH** which comes of keeping close contact with all Labour sympathisers. Sympathy is necessary; support is better; active Membership in the local Party is best of all. **WILL YOU SUPPORT US BY PAYING 1d. PER WEEK?**

A Collector will call upon you, weekly or as you desire. Your contributions will be receipted by fixing stamps on a Special Contribution Card. Afterwards you

will receive from the Divisional Office your National Card of Membership.

Part of the money you subscribe goes to the local Labour Party, and part will be sent to the Divisional Party for general political organisation.

You will be kept informed of the activities of the Party generally, and it is hoped you will come into closer contact with us.

Please give this suggestion your serious consideration.

Sign the form below and hand to our collector or canvasser.
YOU WILL NEVER REGRET GIVING PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO A CAUSE IN WHICH YOU BELIEVE.

On behalf of the General Council of the Nuneaton Divisional Labour Party,

Yours sincerely,

Walter Lewis,
(Agent and Secretary).

Detach here.

I promise to pay one penny per week to the Penny Fund.

Name.....Address.....

Name.....Address.....

Name.....Address.....

THE LABOUR PARTY

League of Youth

Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 13 (NEW SERIES)

JULY, 1931

Let's Have a Plan

BUILDING THE NEW ENGLAND.

Much has been said recently about speculative builders destroying the countryside. In the following article a member of the Labour Party League of Youth emphasises the need for careful town and regional planning.

"Let us see," he writes, "that our civic centres as well as our dormitory areas are not marred by the shrieking absurdities of anti-communal enterprise."

THE much-maligned English summer does, whatever disappointments it may bring with it, stir the people to see the land in which they dwell. The attraction of the cinemas, where may be beheld magnificent vistas and superb views of well-nigh anywhere from the New York skyline to a mountain in the Rockies (cinemas which may claim to be the coolest spot in town) does pall before the attraction of summer sports and pursuits whatever the weather appears on the calendar.

Visitors to our country cause us many a time to find fresh interest in our home towns whose dull monotony has for so long been unrelieved in our answering the daily call of our office, shop or factory. Our own hard-earned week or fortnight and maybe an occasional week-end stirs in many of us a fresh consciousness of the appropriateness or otherwise of the jumble of bricks and mortar with which we are almost eternally bounded. All this is to the good. If it does not produce the "divine discontent" it at least jerks us from our rut which inevitably leads the young to think along fresh avenues.

One aspect of the recent enthusiasm for hiking that the Press would have us know is burning within the nation's youth, — and the drop in prices of equipment gives colour to such contention—is that it brings many young people to realise the potentialities of our towns and countryside. They also

observe the true vandalism that is far more patent than the litter of stray banana skins and cigarette packets, etc., etc. — though this is disgusting enough—in destroying the natural resources of our land.

Camping and hiking draws attention to maps—it is one of the joys of this pastime to trace both old and new routes on paper—maps which move laymen and the non-technician to the realisation of the romance and interest that surrounds town and regional planning which ranks high in importance among the domestic problems of to-day.

It has been said that the difference between the architect and the doctor is that the latter buries his mistakes whereas the former leaves his to add to the suffering of his and future generations.

There must be considered the problems of distances from workplace and home; traffic concentrations of many kinds from morning and evening rushes to work, to football, theatre, shopping, race crowds and combinations of these and overlapping; relative percentage of rent and travelling cost of total incomes; migrations of people to and from particular areas and numerous other problems that give scope to the statistician to produce reams of figures, tables and graphs, but the wider problem should not be laid aside because of the drier and more matter-of-fact approach of the research worker.

Town planning has been known to the world since before the days of the Greek Herodotus. Its principles have been put in practice from time to time during these long centuries, but in our island we find no definite application from a legislative point of view until 1909 when provisions were made to enable local authorities to utilise certain powers. The lesson of the lack of Socialist representation of local authorities is apparent once again. The 1909 measures were non-compulsory and many were the localities that did not adopt the procedure. Post-war years have impressed even our national legislature that town planning considerations are not just a jolly idea for local authorities to either adopt or ignore as the spirit moves them. With this realisation has also dawned regional planning which opens up scope for a plan to be conceived for large areas and not to improve one town here or a city there and let the lack of civic responsibility of a neighbour reduce to futility the efforts of the conscientious authority. One is reminded that architects still build structures with soft red brick and other delicately textured facings while from the very building itself or from an adjoining property smoke is belched forth from the domestic hearth to ruin the façade as well as increase the laundry, clothes and doctors' bills of the dwellers.

A CALL TO YOUTH.

A nation should not use blindly the ideas of a long-dead generation, be it in the sphere of building or that of government. Many of the buildings of to-day would look more at home with a chariot before their portals.

Let us of the younger generation see that sporadic building development does not spoil our countryside. Let us see that our civic centres as well as our dormitory areas are not marred by the shrieking absurdities of anti-communal enterprise. As we apply the inherited knowledge of past ages tempered with the experience of this to our present needs, let us see that they who have had, and misused, do not hold us to ransom. Aged custom is not the romance that we well appreciate when rebuilding our land and expressing our spirit through this communal art.

The din of the pneumatic drill may have to be heard, but let us first raise our voices concerning to what end such din shall be.

Things We Hear

THE announcement that a National Camp is to be held at Withyam in Sussex during the first week of August has aroused a good deal of enthusiasm among members of the League who are campers and who live in the South. The Camping Bureau which has charge of the arrangements expects a goodly muster but its work will be made considerably easier if those who intend to be present will send in early intimation. Remember, Leagues and individual campers possessing their own equipment are asked to bring it to Withyam, and individual members wishing to stay there and who lack personal equipment are asked to communicate with the Camping Bureau immediately.

There will be plenty of opportunity during August week for pleasure and for propaganda and all who join in the camp are sure to have a good time. So make up your mind now, persuade your pal to come with you and write Paul Williams, Camping Bureau, League of Youth, Transport House (South Block), Smith Square, without further delay.

* * *

A number of comrades have expressed a wish to stay at the London Camp for full weeks during July and August barring the period of the National Camp, August 1st to 9th. Will those who wish to spend a week at the London Camp favour Paul Williams with early intimation. How successful this camp has been is shown by a report lately to hand. On an occasion recently the Camp was honoured by visits from Dr. Hugh Dalton, M.P., Mrs. Leah Manning and Mr. R. T. Windle. In an address to the Campers who included representatives from Leagues as far distant as Lincoln and Chatham, Dr. Dalton recalled his younger days when similar camps were held and when such events were used for spreading propaganda in the rural areas. The presence of comrades from Holland and Germany was also referred to by Dr. Dalton. "International friendship," he remarked, "would well be made by the youth of the various nations. Such friendships and understandings would perhaps contribute further to the desired end of world harmony than the work of his department, which in its way was striving towards that end."

But while the good weather takes many of our members away to the camps at the week-end, reports which reach us reveal that the general work of the branches goes on during the summer months just the same. Newport Pagnell sends a long and interesting report of a debate which took place recently between Mr. H. Wickham and Miss Holes of the Junior Imperial League. Miss Holes put forward the usual arguments of the anti-socialists. "The Socialists," she declared, "wanted the abolition of the capitalist and the idea of pooling everything and sharing out everything equally. It sounded very enticing, but what was going to happen when most of them had spent their allotted share and had nothing more to pool?"

In an excellent exposition of the case for Socialism, Mr. Wickham pointed out that Socialism was more than a policy of a political party; it was first and foremost a code of life. "It was a system of Government whereby a nation or community of peoples live by the law — the communism of natural resources and the machinery of production and distribution."

* * *

A similar question to that debated by Mr. Wickham has occupied the minds of the members of the Wandsworth branch, for at a recent meeting a discussion was held on the topic of "Capitalism or Socialism." A report of the discussion is not to hand but the usual monthly circular giving a list of fixtures shows that this branch is busy with activities. It is holding a flannel dance in conjunction with the Wimbledon League on July 15th at the William Morris Hall, Merton Rd., Wimbledon. The Wandsworth Branch sends a copy of the Bulletin to each of its members. What Wandsworth does all branches should do.

* * *

Good progress is recorded by the Leagues of Birmingham. Debates here are popular too, and recently the record of the Government formed the subject of a discussion with the "Imps." Members of the local Advisory Committee keep in touch with the branches by regular visits, and the necessity for close co-operation between Leagues is always emphasised. A new branch at West Birmingham has formed an Indus-

trial History Study Group under the directorship of the local candidate, Mr. O. G. Willey. Birmingham Leagues also have their own choir.

* * *

From Salford, near Manchester, there comes an appeal for help and co-operation. "We are only a small unit within a ward," writes the Secretary, "there are four other wards and two other divisions with splendid material awaiting development; lack of organisation goes on from day to day and year to year. What can be done? There is abundance of youth with their hearts in the right place, with energy, character and ability. The youth of to-day must be the leaders of to-morrow. We want to increase our activities so that every member shall be made to feel that youth is a driving force. We are cut off from contact and association with other young people's bodies. We have tennis, football, swimming and other attractions. We appeal to you to help forward by every means the development of the League and the Cause."

Our Salford friends will be interested to learn that efforts are being made to form an advisory committee for the Manchester area. With this on the way many of its difficulties will be lessened and co-operation with other Leagues will be made easier. In the meantime perhaps Leagues in the Salford area will get into touch with Miss Walsh, 10, Rock Street, Salford, its Secretary, so that co-ordination of activities may be arranged.

* * *

Members of the Hastings branch are enthusiastic campers. Their tents are pitched on the Winchelsea beach and in the surroundings to the camp there is ample opportunity for all sorts of games, rambles and for bathing. The great feature of the Hastings Camp is the cheapness of its facilities. Members may stay for 1/- week-end. Their visitors are charged an extra sixpence.

League members from all parts of the country come to Hastings and all such will be given a hearty welcome at the local League Camp. It is anticipated that the Camp will be open until September, and all who wish to visit it are asked to write R. Goldsack, 27, Station Road, Hastings, Sussex.

Publicity, Politics and Play

LAST month we printed a number of election stories with the result that a number of readers have favoured us with amusing anecdotes regarding their experiences. A selection is given below and we shall be glad to publish similar stories that other readers may care to send.

"My branch instructed me," writes a secretary, "to obtain some free publicity for its activities. I tried many stunts none of which were very successful. At last I hit on the idea of sending a letter to the local press signed with a fictitious name, and challenging the League to debate. 'In the letter I declared that the League was spreading unpatriotic ideas among the younger generation and urged my fellow citizens to refrain from supporting its work. The letter appeared under the name of 'Noel Mathews' and aroused much interest among our members. None had the slightest knowledge that it was I who wrote the letter. The criticism and challenge was considered by the branch meeting and our Secretary was instructed to write a reply expressing willingness to meet Mr. Noel Mathews in debate. The challenge was accepted and a meeting arranged. To my amazement our meeting room was packed on the night.

"Many friends and opponents were present and all eagerly awaited the coming of 'Mr. Noel Mathews.' Our champion stated the case for the League and a good discussion followed. A number of new members were enrolled and a good report of the meeting appeared in the local paper. I have never told my friends that 'Mr. Noel Mathews' was an invention of mine and that he existed only in my imagination. Since that meeting we have made good progress."

* * *

A story of an election meeting is told by another correspondent. A local Liberal Association convened a meeting which was presided over by a parson who seemed to think that the ways of the pulpit were equally suitable for the platform.

"And now, O Lord," he began, when introducing the speaker, "we have with us to-night a man who is known throughout the country as a great and

shining light among the Liberal Party. Help us, O Lord, help us to understand what he is about to say to us and may we be deeply amused by it, and, if possible, grant that we may be able to derive some benefit from it, if it so please thee."

The talkies have displaced the magic lantern, but in years gone by the latter was often in evidence at political meetings. At one illustrated lecture given by a Conservative Association some confusion arose over some slides which were placed on the screen in wrong order.

"I will give you a portrait of Sir Archibald Hunter," said the lecturer.

There was a pause. "It's not here," murmured the operator. "Never mind. Show the next."

"Ladies and gentlemen," continued the lecturer, "we will now show a picture of Sir Hector MacDonald." Yet another pause. More whispers.

"Put on Baden Powell." Again was the slide missing. "For God's sake put on something," murmured the lecturer. The operator found a portrait of an hotel at Pietermaritzburg and the audience screamed with laughter when someone shouted, "I'll bet yer them generals has gone in that pub for a drink."

All Branches should have

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